in design, development and implementation of Management Information System. More and more training courses are being organised by agencies like NIC, CMC Ltd., to train the users in more productive use of computers especially for MIS applications.

Release of Indian prisoners from Pakistani jails

1382. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the comparative number of Indian prisoners in Pakistan awaiting release in exchange for Pakistani internees in India as at the end of the years 1984 and 1985; and

(b) what are the reasons for delay in the release of Indian prisoners from the Pakistani jails?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The number of Indian prisoners in Pakistan jail at the end of years 1984 and 1985, are believed to be 600 and 850 respectively.

(b) Government of Pakistan seldom release Indian prisoners on expiry of the period of their sentences. Nor has it been possible to ascertain the full facts from them in regard to such cases. We have taken up this question with them repeatedly.

Reforestation Programme

1383. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether reforestation programme could be taken under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, the National Rural Employment Programme or Employment Guarantee Schemes in Maharashtra not on the basis of planting of trees but on the basis of survival of the trees;

(b) if so, the details of the programme; and

(c) the manner in which the country is likely to maintain its ecological balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Social forestry plantation programmes envisaged under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, National Rural Employment Programme and Employment Guarantee schemes in Maharashtra have their focus on employment generation. At present, plantation programmes under all these programmes are based on the cost of plantation, since the initial investment is necessary for all operations connected therewith, from nursery raising to plantation. A scheme based entirely on survival of trees may be feasible only in farm forestry. However, it is imperative to have an element of incentive for survival, which would be based on intensive field monitoring. From the long range point of view, this element would need to be built into such schemes and programmes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The ecological balance in the country can be maintained by effective protection and management of good forests and by greening of wastelands and agroforestry, all focused on increasing the green cover in the country. The key elements of the Action Plan drawn up for the above purpose by the National Wastelands Development Board and approved by the National Land Use and Wastelands Development Council are at attached statement.